व्यक्ति अधिक आवंटन वाले राज्यों के बीच के अन्तर को कम करने में सफल हुई है।

राज्यों के बीच अन्तर को कम करने और प्रति व्यक्ति कम आवंटन वाले राज्यों हेतु अधिक वृद्धि करने के लिए समूचे आवंटन को 1998/99 के दौरान 8.58 प्रतिशत बढ़ा दिया गया है । उत्तर प्रदेश के लिए मिट्टी के तेल के आवंटन में 18.01 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि की गई जो 1998/99 के दौरान 2,12,261 टन की अतिरिक्त मात्रा के बराबर है।

केन्द्रीय सरकार राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को मिट्टी के तेल का आवंटन बल्क में करती है । राज्य/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र के अन्दर विभिन्न क्षेत्रों को इसका खुदरा वितरण करने की जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकार की है।

Sale of Onion Through Mobile Vans and Mother Dairy

666. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government and Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have totally failed to manage the smooth functioning of sale and supply of onion at concessional rates in the capital;

(b) if so, whether the onion was being sold at confessional rate of Rs. 10/- per Kg. through mobile vans whereas the same onion was sold through Mother Dairy at the rate of Rs. 15/-per kg.; and

(c) if so, the reasons for disparity in the sale price of onion at concessional rate and the reasons for not selling onion against Ration Cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) There was no failure on the part of Central Government or the Government of NCT of Delhi in the sale and supply of onions at concessional rate in the capital.

(b) and (c) The quantity of onions made available to the Government of NCT of Delhi through NAFED was supplied at a concessional rate of Rs. 10 per kg. Since the quantities of onions made available through mobile and static outlets were not sufficient to meet the requirements of consumers, it was decided by the Govt, of NCT of Delhi to seek cooperation of the Mother Dairy/Safal outlets. The Mother Dairy used to procure and sell on their own 22 MTs of onions at the then retail price of Rs. 32 per kg. without any subsidy. The Mother Dairy outlets entered into an agreement with the Govt, of NCT of Delhi that they will market 22 MTs of onions at a reduced price of Rs. 15 per kg. if they were given an additional quantity of 22 MTs of onions at the subsidised rates. It was, therefore, decided by the Govt, of NCT of Delhi to make available a quantity of 22 MTs per day to be distributed through the additional 225 outlets of Mother Dairy at a partially subsidised rate of Rs. 15 per kg. The onions are being distributed against the ration cards with effect from 1.11.98 and the price has been reduced to Rs. 10 per kg. w.e.f. 6.11.98.

Shortage of Essential Commodities

667. SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to overcome the problem of shortage of essential commodities in the market; and

(b) whether the steps taken by Government would mitigate the hardships of the common people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The Government has accorded the highest priority to control and stabilising the prices of essential commodities. Apart from certain long term measures to increase the production of certain essental goods, imports of items which are in short supply like pulses and onions have been placed under OGL at zero import duty and duty on the import of edible oils has been reduced to 15 per cent from 25 percent in order to augment the total availability of these items. The export of onions and pulses has been banned. Some of the essential commodities like rice, wheat, palmolein and kerosene are also supplied through the public distribution at below market prices. Stringent actions are being taken against hoarders, blackmarketeers and other indulging

in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act and prevention of Blaekmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act by the State/UT Governments.

(b) The prices of selected essential commodities have already started showing a declining trend. With the anticipated higher production of agricultural produces during the current year, the prices are likely to come down further. The State Governments and Union Territories Administrations have been requested to remove all the restrictions on the inter-state movement of goods in the country.

Central assistance to States to Check price rise

668. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken some measures to arrest the prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Central Government have given any assistance to States in this regard; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c). the prices of selected essential commodities showed an upward trend during the last few months due to decline in their production, adverse climatic conditions, non-availability of sufficient quantities for imports in the international markets. The Government has taken a number of measures to control and stabilise the prices. The import of onions and pulses have been placed under OGL at zero duty and import duty on edible oils has been reduced from 25% to 15%. In view of sharp rise in prices at Delhi, the Government arranged for the distribution of onions through the public distribution agencies at a subsidised rate of Rs. 10 per kg. at Delhi from July, 98. Several other State Governments also supplied a number of essential commodities at below market prices through PDS and cooperative outlets in their States.

पहले निर्यात किये गये प्याज का आयात

669. **श्री शिव सोरेन**: क्या खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्री यह बताने कि कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने प्याज के निर्यात पर लगे प्रतिबन्धो को अप्रैल, 1998 को हट दिया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में विस्तृत ब्यौरा क्या है और उसके क्या कारण है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि अन्य देशों से 31.50 रूपये प्रति किलोग्राम की दर से उन्हे निर्यात किया गया था; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उस संबंध में विस्तृत ब्यौरा क्या है और उसके क्या कारण है?

खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले के मंत्राल्य में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सत्यपाल सिंह यादव): (क) और (ख) प्याज का निर्यात , जिसे 12.1.1998 से अस्थायी तौर पर लम्बित कर दिया गया था, को 4.3.98 से बहाल कर दिया गया था । मार्च, 1998 में प्याज का निर्यात फिर से शुरू करने का मुख्य कारण निर्यात की वचनबद्धताओं को पूरा करना और प्याज उत्पादकों को बाजार में उनके उत्पाद के उचित मूल्य दिलाना है । महाराष्ट्र गुजरात तथा अन्य राज्यों ए किसानों को अपनी रबी के प्याज के लिए खुले बाजार में लाभकारी मुल्य नहीं मिल रहा था ।

(ग) और (घ) सरकार ने नेफेड के जरिय 1.61 करोड़ रूपये मूल्य का केवल 687 मी. टन प्याज का आयात किया है, जो औसतन 23.43 प्रति कि.ग्रा बैठता है । प्याज आयात ईरान तथा किरगिस्तान से किया गया है । अक्तूबर, 98 में 118 लाख रू. पोत पर्यन्त नि:शुल्क मूल्य को 537 लाख मीट्रीक टन प्याज का निर्यात किया गया था । जो औसतन 22.06 रू. प्रति किला ग्राम बैठता है ।

Fair Price Shops

670. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of fair price shops in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of fair price shops per one lakh population in urban areas,' State-wise;

(c) the number of villages covered under one fair price shop.in rural areas, State-wise;

(d) the steps taken by Govt, to increase the number of fair price shops in rural areas; and